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Message Text

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ACTION EPA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CEQ-01
CIAE-00 DOTE-00 HEW-04 HUD-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OIC-02 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 USIA-06 /089 W
----------107808 241029Z /12
R 231410Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9148
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USEEC (ALSO FOR EMBASSY)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, CCMS, OVIP (COSTLE, DOUGLAS), FR
SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN FRANCE; VISIT OF EPA OFFICIALS

REF: STATE 216476

1. IN OPINION OF EMBASSY PARIS, FRENCH DELEGATION AT CCMS PLENARY MIGHT WELL SHOW AN INTEREST IN CHEMICALS AND POSSIBLY IN NUCLEAR PLANT SITING PROBLEMS. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH SCICOUNS, JEAN-FRANCOIS SAGLIO, DIRECTOR OF THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTIONS AND NUISANCES, EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN BOTH THE US TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT (TSCA) AND RECENT FRENCH SIMILAR LEGISLATION. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO ALL-DAY ROUNDTABLE ON OCTOBER 11 CONCERNING THIS FRENCH LAW, WHICH THUS IS CLEARLY SUBJECT OF GREAT INTEREST. FRENCH CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES EXPORTS TO US OF COURSE MAY BE AFFECTED BY TSCA.
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2. PROBABLY THE MOST DISCUSSED ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE IN FRANCE RIGHT NOW IS THE SITING OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS OF VARIOUS KINDS. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (PARIS 19543, 22202, AND 22205), A LARGE NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER THE SUMMER AND THE GOF HAS EVIDENTLY DECIDED QUITE

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FIRMLY TO PROCEED ON SCHEDULE WITH THESE CONSTRUCTIONS.

3. CONCERNING FRANCE'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS IN LAST YEAR, PERHAPS THE MOST USEFUL OBSERVATION WE CAN MAKE IS THAT THE FRENCH SEE THESE THINGS IN LONGER TERM THAN YEARS. SAGLIO, FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY EXPRESSED GREAT PRIDE IN THE PROGRAM OF CLEANING THE WATERS OF THE SEINE BETWEEN PARIS AND THE ENGLISH CHANNEL. HE NOTED BY WAY OF EXAMPLE THAT AFTER ABOUT SIX YEARS OF THESE EFFORTS FISH ARE NOW TO BE FOUND WHERE POLLUTED WATERS PREVIOUSLY HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SURVIVE. SAGLIO'S VIEWS ARE INDICATIVE OF THOSE OF OTHER FRENCH OFFICIALS WITH TECHNICAL BACKGROUNDS WHO WORK IN THIS FIELD. HE TENDS TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF SHORT-TERM RESULTS AND IN SPITE OF HIS CLASSICAL TECHNICAL TRAINING DOES NOT READILY THINK IN QUANTITATIVE TERMS. HE SHOWED HIMSELF A LITTLE LESS THAN OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE, WHICH HE THOUGHT WERE LESS POPULAR ACROSS THE BOARD THAN THEY WERE PERHAPS A YEAR AGO.

4. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE HOUSED IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT. PREVIOUSLY, THEY WERE GROUPED INTO A NOW-ABOLISHED MINISTRY FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE. THAT MINISTRY HAD THREE UNDERSECRETARIATS: ENVIRONMENT, TOURISM AND
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SPORTS. IT IS NOT REALLY CLEAR WHETHER THIS ORGANIZATION CHART TYPE CHANGE REPRESENTS ANY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN GOF ATTITUDES TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
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From: PARIS
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